(c) if so, the decisions taken thereon; and

(d) by when, the Prasar Bharati would commission the programmes again ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Commissioning is one of the methods of sourcing programmes on Doordarshan, besides in-house production, sponsorship etc.

Prasar Bharati has intimated that it has been decided to commission proposals from outside producers in order to complement and supplement in-house production efforts, to ring in variety in programming for public interest, to promote excellence in video/film production, to produce programmes on such subjects where in-house production is not feasible and where commercial sponsoring is not available. Such a move will also encourage the outside producers who have generally made video/ film production their career.

(e) Prasar Bharati has intimated that commissioning would be done depending upon the requirements of Doordarshan and availability of funds.

Market for Indian films in China

542. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China is emerging as a market for Indian films apart from Japan;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the prices being quoted by Chinese delegations at International Film Festival of India (IFFI) film bazaar are too low in comparison to Singapore market; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to reconcile over the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) China is a potential market for Indian films. However, production, distribution and exhibition of films in India is in the private sector and negotiations for sale of Indian titles to various markets are conducted between the right holders/ distributors and the buyers directly.

There may be variations in prices quoted depending upon whether only TV rights are sought, or theatrical/TV/Video/Cable rights are sought.

Prices quoted for emerging markets can be expected to be lower than those for more established markets, as the risks in the former may be perceived as greater.

Earnings of Cable Operators and Broadcasters

543. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge earnings from cable television are a bone of contention between operators and broadcasters;

(b) the approximate earnings per year from subscribers and advertisers; and

(c) the action proposed to amend the Cable Network Regulation Act, 1995, to benefit the consumers both in terms of money and programmes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) This Ministry does not maintain record of earnings of cable operators or broadcasters. There are no legal provisions in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 or the rules framed thereunder to regulate the subscription charges levied by the pay channels/cable operators or the charges payable by the cable operators to the TV Broadcasting Companies. These are purely contractual affairs between the broadcasting companies, cable operators and the subscribers and are market driven.

(c) Government has introduced the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2002 with a view to mandating an addressable system for pay channel viewing, through cable networks. The system when mandated will allow the consumer to choose and pay for the channel(s) he wishes to watch.

Venue for International Film Festival

544. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to change the venue for holding International Film Festival;

(b) if so, the details thereof;